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10 OCT 1980

Dear Mr. Geible:

Thank you for your letter to President Carter concerning the situation in the Republic of Korea since the declaration of full martial law on May 17.

We fully share your concerns about developments in the past several months and have repeatedly made our views known at the highest levels of the Korean Government. We have used every means at our disposal to urge that the Korean leadership move toward a more representative political system. The government has announced plans to adopt a new constitution by national referendum in late October and to hold a presidential election early next year.

With regard to Mr. Kim, the U.S. Government has followed the trial with intense interest and deep concern. We have strong feelings about the extreme verdict handed down in Mr. Kim's case. The Government of the Republic of Korea is fully aware of our views. Although we are not commenting further on the case now because it is under judicial review, our concern and dialog with the Koreans continue.

Sincerely,

William J. Dyess
Assistant Secretary of State
for Public Affairs

Mr. Merrell Geible,
Council Director,
North Indiana Conference,
United Methodist Church,
P.O. Box 869,
Marion, Indiana.

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NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 647 MARION, INDIANA 46952 PHONE 317 664-5181

800143-1032

September 26, 1980

8-21101

The Honorable Edward Muskie
Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Sir:

I want to register with you my shock and dismay at the continuing news coming to us of the repressive measures used by the government of South Korea in the treatment of dissidents. An outstanding recent example is the death sentence pronounced upon Kim Dae Jung. Unimpeachable news sources bring us repeated information regarding harsh treatment of dissidents whose own character is above reproach.

That the official policy of the United States government should continue to support such a repressive regime in South Korea is untenable to the enlightened conscience.

I hope you will use whatever influence you have with the government of this country to bring pressures to bear upon the South Korean government to alter its present policies of repression and support the principle of human rights in that republic.

Sincerely,

Merrell D. Geible

Merrell D. Geible
Council Director

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Council on Ministries Director: *Merrell D. Geible*
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